

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying an agent useful for treating neuropsychiatric disorders comprising:
 - (a) administering an agent to an animal model having a inherently reduced prepulse inhibition (PPI),
 - (b) subjecting the animal model to a startle stimulus, and
 - (c) observing the magnitude of a PPI in the animal model, wherein a change in magnitude of the PPI compared to a control animal is indicative of an agent that is useful for treating neuropsychiatric disorders.
2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the animal model is a Brattleboro Rat model or a Brown Norway Rat model.
3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a polypeptide, a peptide, a small molecule, a peptidomimetic, and a polynucleotide.
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of parenterally, topically, subcutaneously and transmucosally.
5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the startle stimulus is a physical stimulus selected from the group consisting of an auditory stimulus, a visual stimulus, and a nociceptive stimulus.
6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the neuropsychiatric disorder is selected from the group consisting of Schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, Huntington's disorder, Tourette disorder, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, major depression, anxiety and autism.
7. (Withdrawn) A method for screening a test psychotropic agent for treating a neuropsychiatric disorder comprising:

(a) administering to an animal comprising an inherently reduced pre-pulse inhibition a test psychotropic agent; and

(b) measuring prepulse inhibition in a startle reflex response chamber, wherein an increased prepulse inhibition level indicates a strong clinical potential as a psychotropic drug.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the animal is a Brown Norway Rat or a Brattleboro Rat.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the neuropsychiatric disorder is schizophrenia.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the neuropsychiatric disorder is selected from the group consisting of psychotic depression, postpartum depression, affective disorder, depression, anxiety, schizoaffective disorder, schizophreniform disorder, delusional disorder, brief psychotic disorder, shared psychotic disorder, borderline personality disorder, manic-depressive disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, Huntington's Disease, Tourette's syndrome, bipolar disorder, autism and tic disorders.

11-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing sensorimotor gating in a subject having a bipolar disease or disorder, an anxiety disease or disorder or a depression disease or disorder ~~inherently reduced pre-pulse inhibition or a disease or disorder causing a reduced pre-pulse inhibition~~, the method comprising administering to the subject an NT69L in an amount effective to improve symptoms of the disorder ~~increase prepulse inhibition~~ relative to the subject not treated with the NT69L agent ~~thereby increasing sensorimotor gating~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of improving symptoms in a subject having a bipolar disease or disorder, an anxiety disease or disorder or a depression disease or disorder ~~causing reduced pre-pulse inhibition~~ comprising administering to the subject an NT69L in combination with other psychotropic drugs, in an amount effective to improve symptoms of the disease or disorder ~~increase prepulse inhibition~~

~~compared to the subject prior to administering NT69L thereby increasing sensorimotor gating and improving symptoms.~~

17. (Previously Presented) The method of either claim 15 or 16, further comprising administering a compound selected from the group consisting of levocabastine, SR48692, and SR142948.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of either claim 15 or 16 wherein the NT69L is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of parenterally, topically, subcutaneously, subdermally, and transmucosally.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of either claim 15 or 16, wherein the NT agonist is PD149163.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) The method of either claim 15 or 16, wherein the subject has a neuropsychiatric disorder.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of either claim 15 or 16 wherein the subject has a bipolar disease or disorder, the anxiety disease or disorder or the depression diseases or disorder is associated with sensorimotor gating abnormalities.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the subject comprises a neuropsychiatric disorder is selected from the group consisting of schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, postpartum depression, affective disorder, anxiety, schizoaffective disorder, schizophreniform disorder, delusional disorder, brief psychotic disorder, shared psychotic disorder, borderline personality disorder, manic-depressive disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, autism, pervasive developmental disorder Huntington's Disease, Tourette's syndrome, bipolar disorder, and tic disorders.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting serotonin-2A and/or alpha-1 receptor mediated neural function in a subject having a bipolar disease or disorder, an anxiety disease or disorder or a depression disease or disorder comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of NT69L wherein serotonin-2A and/or

alpha 1 receptor mediated neural function is inhibited and wherein symptoms associated with the disease or disorder are reduced.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising administering a compound selected from the group consisting of levocabastine, SR48692, and SR142948.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the NT69L is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of parenterally, subcutaneously, subdermally, topically, and transmucosally.
27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein the NT agonist is PD149163.
28. (Cancelled)
29. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the subject has a neuropsychiatric disorder.
30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the neuropsychiatric disorder is selected from the group consisting of schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, postpartum depression, affective disorder, anxiety, schizoaffective disorder, schizophreniform disorder, delusional disorder, brief psychotic disorder, shared psychotic disorder, borderline personality disorder, manic-depressive disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, autism, pervasive developmental disorder Huntington's Disease, Tourette's syndrome, bipolar disorder, and tic disorders.
31. (Cancelled)
32. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a subject having a bipolar disease or disorder, an anxiety disease or disorder or a depression disease or disorder ~~neuropsychiatric disorder~~ comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutically effective dose of an NT69L or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the pharmaceutically effective dose is between about 50 and about 300 mg per day, with unit doses in the range of about 10 to about 100 mg.

34. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the administering is oral, parental, subcutaneous, intranasal, rectal or topical.